

# U.S. TIBET COMMITTEE

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## TEXT OF U.S. TIBET COMMITTEE APPEAL TO PRESIDENT REAGAN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE 28TH COMMEMORATION OF TIBETAN NATIONAL DAY, MARCH 10, 1987

WHEREAS the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people have been deliberately and grossly violated in the 36 years since the People's Republic of China invaded Tibet, we call on the United States to lead the world in condemning the People's Republic of China and in taking action to halt this crime against humanity. We urge you to consider the following:

**GENOCIDE BY POPULATION TRANSFER.** The People's Republic of China's final solution for Tibet is the extinction of the Tibetan people under a sea of Chinese colonists. This policy is now successfully being effected by way of the illegal migration of 6.7 million Chinese into Tibet thus far, and the priority completion of the infrastructure for millions more, violating international law which prohibits the transfer of citizens into occupied territory.

**STERILIZATION AND INFANTICIDE.** The people of Tibet lost 1.2 million lives, one-sixth of their population, from starvation, execution, torture, prison and forced labor conditions, battles and uprisings, and suicide under Chinese rule since 1950. Now, even unborn Tibetans are being exterminated by way of aggressively pursued forced sterilization and forced abortion, including full-term babies murdered at birth.

**MILITARY PROLIFERATION.** The People's Republic of China has transformed the peaceful land of Tibet into a military bastion holding India and Central Asia hostage with one-quarter of its 350-strong nuclear force. This includes 70 medium range and 20 intermediate range missiles, based 165 miles north of Lhasa at Nagchuka, ICBM bases in Kōngpo Nyitri and Powo Tamo, and a second nuclear base outside Golmo in Amdo. There are 17 known secret radar stations, 14 major airfields, 20 airstrips and vast underground bases along the east and west sectors of the Himalayan front, with massive troop movements presently taking place along the Indian border. In addition to this country-wide network of war machinery there are 15 PLA divisions known to be in Tibet, one soldier to every 10 Tibetans.

**POLITICAL PRISONERS.** Tibet, which maintained only a few small jails before 1950 to serve the entire country, has become one large penitentiary with 84 prisons in the so-called Tibet Autonomous Region alone. Crowded with an estimated 20,000 Tibetan prisoners under appalling conditions, there are some 3,500 Tibetan political prisoners in the immediate vicinity of Lhasa, including the elderly Geshe Lobsang Wangchuk, symbol of Tibet's prisoners of conscience and now adopted by Amnesty International. In the Amdo province of Tibet, now renamed Chinghai, the People's Republic of China has built the world's largest Gulag, holding millions of prisoners.

**EXECUTIONS.** The secret and public executions of Tibetan prisoners continues today. On February 20, 1987, two more Tibetans were publicly executed, three more sentenced to death and 30 given terms at hard labor. Tibetans, including family members, are forced to assemble and watch as prisoners, with their vocal cords tied and their arms broken behind their backs, are shot in the back of the head. Relatives claiming the body are charged \$5 for the expense of the bullet.

**RELIGIOUS GENOCIDE.** The People's Republic of China has destroyed 6,254 monasteries in Tibet, first looting them of their irreplaceable art which is estimated to have brought the PRC \$80 billion in foreign exchange, burned 60% of Tibet's vast religious, historical and biographical literature, and imprisoned, tortured and killed the majority of Tibet's learned monastic teachers. This constitutes religious genocide on the only nation which had preserved the entire body of Buddhist literature and liturgy for the world for over a millenia.

The policy behind the present facade of freedom of religion is nothing less than the destruction of religion in Tibet. With all reopened monasteries controlled by a Chinese party member, young monks are allotted only one study period per day with the rest of their time devoted to labor; with monasteries often lacking a single Geshe (Doctor of Philosophy), incarnate lama or experienced teacher to instruct them, young monks are "encouraged" to break their vows by drinking, smoking and dancing, and are required to master a few ceremonies which they must perform for tourists, from whom they must collect fees, in debasing contradiction to Buddhist tenets. Fees and offerings are taken by the Chinese. With recent laws banning the discovery of new incarnated lamas, with lamas in exile now prohibited from visiting Tibet and with the loss of the few remaining fully trained monks from old age to be expected within this generation, nothing of the substance of this great living religion will be left in Tibet except the permitted symbolic practices of prostration and prayer wheels.

**MASSIVE UNEMPLOYMENT.** Tibetans have been used as slave laborers by the People's Republic of China for 30 years; now they are losing even that cruel form of employment as millions of Chinese flood their land to take over jobs, small businesses, arable farmland and the homes of the farmers. Chinese settlers receive interest-free loans, guaranteed jobs and housing, free furniture and clothes, monthly financial supplements, medical care and education for their children. Displaced Tibetans are forced into the countryside to look for work and farmers are forced into the hills to live as nomads. With inflation up 300% since 1985 and a serious shortage of basic commodities, and with the tide of Chinese settlers becoming larger every year, the situation is now critical for Tibetans.

**HEALTH CARE FOR CHINESE ONLY.** Modern health care is provided for the Chinese and Tibetan cadres, but is virtually nonexistent for the six million Tibetans. With admission to a regional hospital and treatment therein decided on the basis of a Tibetan's "class designation" rather than the degree of illness; with local hospitals often lacking operating rooms, disinfectant, bandages, medicines and basic equipment, and with the common knowledge that new medical procedures and instruments are employed on Tibetans first to train Chinese doctors, the Tibetan fear of the Chinese medical establishment is well founded. Tibet's traditional medical system, with its remarkable success rate, has been discovered by the Chinese and is being researched in Lhasa, but almost all the trained doctors who once healed Tibetans were imprisoned in 1959 and most have died. Life expectancy in China as a whole is 65 years, but for Tibetans it is 40 years.

**EDUCATION FOR CHINESE ONLY.** Tibetan children have been denied an education for over 30 years, and the education recently available to those few children not needed for field work consists only of Chinese language, Marxism, math and physical education, taught in segregated classes. With the study of Tibetan

proscribed for young children and the study of English available only to Chinese students, and with over 19,000 Chinese students in American universities today and only three Tibetans, brought privately and with difficulty to the United States, the Tibetans have been reduced to an illiterate minority in their own land.

STATE-PROMOTED ALCOHOLISM. The youth of Tibet, after 30 years of starvation, prison, forced labor, daily struggle sessions until 1979, lack of education, no hope of employment, proscription of religion and the establishment of a vicious and degrading system of apartheid by the Chinese in Tibet, are now easy victims to the country-wide Chinese policy of wholesale importation of cheap and potent whiskey.

DESTRUCTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES. Tibet's beautiful and unique natural resources are also facing extinction. Vast herds of gazelle and wild ass, rare blue sheep and wild yak, bar headed geese and bramany ducks, and the celebrated white crane, once constituting a wildlife Eden in Asia, have almost been exterminated. Whole mountain ranges have been clear cut of their virgin forests, grasslands ploughed and groundcover destroyed by overgrazing to meet Chinese livestock demands, and the resulting erosion and changes in snow and forest cover threaten world climate, which is affected by the surface of the Tibetan plateau.

WE, THEREFORE, call upon the United States Government to lead the world in opposing the People's Republic of China's policies of genocide in Tibet. We urge the United States Government to make this issue a paramount concern in all its negotiations with the People's Republic of China.

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